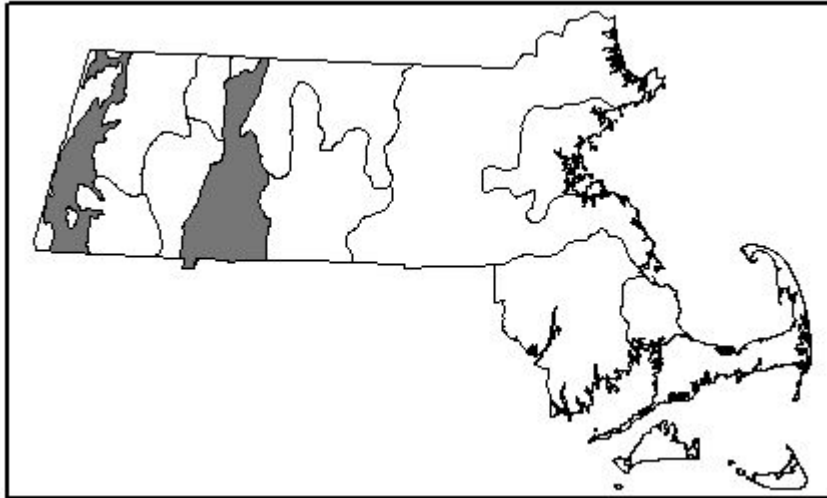


**Community Name:** CALCAREOUS FOREST SEEP COMMUNITY

**Community Code:** CT1C2B2000

**SRANK:** S2



**Concept:** Within hardwood forests on slopes, with small springs and seeps containing water with dissolved calcium emerge from the ground where the surface intersects the top of the water table. Canopy is of the surrounding forest although more open, but shrub and herbaceous layers species are typical of calcareous wetlands. Usually very small, much less than an acre in size. The community as defined is close to a Calcareous Sloping Fen.

**Environmental Setting:** Seeps may be near stream headwaters, or may be isolated with the spring water spilling out to be absorbed into the surroundings. Calcareous forested seeps receive water that has flowed through or been in contact with limestone or other calcareous rock or gravel. Sites in the Berkshire highlands and Vermont Piedmont tend to have fewer of the rarer calcareous fen species that are thought to be restricted to the richest sites.

**Vegetation Description:** Calcareous seeps typically occur within rich northern hardwoods and share the tree canopy species of the surrounding forest such as sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), and red oak (*Quercus rubra*), although white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and hickories (*Carya* spp.) are also reported. The canopy is usually more open than in the surrounding forest. Black ash, typical of wet calcareous communities, also occurs in calcareous forested seep communities. witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), alternate-leaved dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), and young of the canopy species contribute to a scattered shrub layer. The herbaceous layer varies from sparse to continuous and includes many widespread wetland species such as sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), yellow jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*), and jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*). Key indicator calcareous species include many calcareous fen indicators as well: shrubby cinquefoil (*Pentaphylloides floribunda*), alder-leaf buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*), wild black currant (*Ribes americanum*), yellow sedge (*Carex flava*), porcupine sedge (*Carex hystericina*), hoary willow (*Salix candida*), autumn willow (*S. serissima*), purple avens (*Geum rivale*), rough-leaved goldenrod (*Solidago patula*), and grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*).

**Associations:**

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** As with other seeps, these small communities provide parts of the habitats of the species of surrounding communities. Most tree dwelling species would not be affected by the presence of small seeps below. Star-nosed moles (*Condylura cristata*) would be expected in seeps of any kind. If the water from the seeps stays in topographic low areas those may function as vernal pools, and support vernal pool breeding species.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

**Associated Rare Plants:**

CYPRIPEDIUM REGINAE	SHOWY LADY'S-SLIPPER	SC
EQUISETUM SCIRPOIDES	DWARF SCOURING-RUSH	SC
PLATANThERA DILATATA	LEAFY WHITE ORCHIS	T
SPIRANTHES ROMANZOFFIANA	HOODED LADIES'-TRESSES	E

**Associated Rare Animals:**

NONE KNOWN

**Examples with Public Access:** Mt. Greylock State Reservation, Williamstown.

**Threats:** Exotics, which are particularly invasive in calcareous conditions. Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louisae*) are typical invaders of the community. Water sources need to be maintained.

**Management Needs:** Removal of exotics.

**Synonyms**

**USNVC/TNC:** Within occurrences of Acer saccharum - Betula alleghaniensis - (Fagus grandifolia) Forest Alliance and Acer saccharum - Fraxinus americana - Tilia americana Forest Alliance.

**MA (old name):** Part of SNE SEEPAGE FOREST

**ME:** Not described.

**NH:** Not described.

**VT:** Possibly a small type of Woodland Seep/Spring run community.

**NY:** Not described.

**CT:** Not described.

**RI:** Not described.

**Weatherbee:** part of Calcareous Seep Community

**Author:** P. Swain **Date:** 10/21/99